

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending herein.

I. Provisional election.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, which corresponds to claims 1-8.

This election is being made with traverse and without prejudice to Applicants' rights with respect to any of the claims, including the right to file divisional applications thereon and with respect to rejoinder in the future.

Applicants also note that no "serious burden" is present in examining the one remaining claim, claim 9, and cite the following:

803 Restriction – When Proper

Under the statute an application may properly be required to be restricted to one of two or more claimed inventions only if they are able to support separate patents and they are either independent (MPEP § 806.04 – § 806.04(i)) or distinct (MPEP § 806.05 – § 806.05(i)).

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made *without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.*

II. Conclusion.

The foregoing is fully responsive to the Office Action.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please contact the undersigned for any reason. Applicants seek to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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